

House of Edward Taylor, I
Middletown, Monmouth County, New Jersey

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District of New Jersey

Historic American Buildings Survey
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133 Central Avenue, Rahway, New Jersey

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House of Edward Taylor, I
Middletown, Monmouth County, New Jersey

Owner: Monmouth County Historical Society

Date of Erection: Late seventeenth or early
eighteenth century

Architect:

Builder:

Present Condition: Restored; circa 1916 moved about
fifty yards to make room for high-
way

Number of Stories: Two

Materials of Construction: Foundation - brick

Exterior walls - frame
construction with original
wood shingles; bricked in
between studs

Interior walls - plaster
and wainscoting

Inside brick chimneys

Roof - pitch with new
wood shingles

Historical Data:

Marlpit Hall is the name by which this house
is known; just where it derived its name is puzzling.
However, Mandeville states that one of Middletown's
big industries during the early nineteenth century
was furnishing marl, a form of fertilizer, to the

surrounding farmers, and this was sold by the load at the Middletown marl pits - this may account for the name.

This house is one of the oldest in Monmouth County. The oldest part is the story and a half section of the east side. It was built, according to Mandeville, in 1684; he does not name the builder. It has been suggested that Squire John Taylor (1716-1798) was the builder. If so, it must have been at a later date. Since there is no doubt that it is older than 1735, it is likely that it was not built by a member of the Taylor family. Rosalie Bailey says that it is typically Dutch in architecture and suggests that some early Dutch settler was responsible for it.

The first known owner of the house was Squire John Taylor. The first of the Taylor family came from England and settled near Sandy Hook, in Monmouth County, in 1684. Squire Taylor was an important individual in this section. He married Phebe, sister of General Nathaniel Hurd. He served as Sheriff of Monmouth County and as Judge of Common Pleas. Squire John was an ardent loyalist and was appointed by Admiral Howe to act as Peace Commissioner for the British Government.

Squire John sold the house in the middle of the eighteenth century to Barnabas Ryder of Long Island. He reserved a site of fourteen acres, and on this in 1752 he built a house which was known as Taylor's Folly because of its immense size. Squire John sold Taylor's Folly in 1792 to George Crawford. It burned in 1891. After selling this property, the Squire moved to Perth Amboy where he died.

In 1771 Edward Taylor (1712-1783), brother of the Squire, bought the house and 210 acres from Barnabas Ryder. This member of the Taylor family was an active patriot and a member of the Assembly; most of the Taylors were loyalists. It remained in the Taylor family until the twentieth century when it was bought by Mrs. J. Amory Haskell of Middletown. Mrs. Haskell had the property restored, and in 1936 presented the deed of Marlpit Hall to the Monmouth County Historical Society.

All structural units are white oak, hand-hewn, mortised and tennoned, and pinned together with hardwood pins. The window and exterior door frames are hewn out and rabbeted from white oak. The shingles are nailed to horizontal hand-hewn shingle lath, the studs being filled in with brick and mud mortar.

Bibliography:

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Ellis, F. History of Monmouth County, New Jersey Philadelphia, Peck and Company, 1885

Bailey, Rosalie Fellows Pre-Revolutionary Dutch Houses and Families in Northern New Jersey and Southern New York New York, William Morrow and Company, 1936
(See article on House of Squire John Taylor, page 411 following)

Material collected by George Delatash

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Rev. Jan. 26.37 T.T.W.